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JAMES S. MURDOCH, a member of the South Carolina Historical Society, died at his residence in Charleston on the morning of May 23, 1908. He was the second son of William and Margaret Murdoch, and was born at Anaroe, the family seat at Caledon, County Tyrone, Ireland, March 27, 1835, and was in the seventy-fourth year of his age. In 1843 he came to the United States with his parents and family, who, after spending a year or two in Pennsylvania, settled near Asheville, N. C. There he spent his boyhood. He was educated in the school at Asheville conducted by Col. Stephen Lee. Among his contemporaries at this school were the late Governor Vance and Chief-Justice Merriman, of North Carolina, both of whom served that State in the Senate of the United States. In 1853 he moved to Charleston and entered the mercantile establishment of Lemon, Brown & Co., and later he was with Kerrison & Lindsay. His elder brother, Robert Murdoch, had already established himself in Charleston, and during the remainder of his life James Murdoch was a resident of Charleston. At the beginning of the War Between the United States and the Confederate States, he took part in the first bombardment of Fort Sumter as a member of the Marion Artillery, and served until the surrender of that fortress by Major Robert Anderson. Shortly afterwards the firm of John Fraser & Co. sent him to England on a special mission, and during the war he was engaged in selling Confederate bonds in that country and in France and in sending goods and supplies through the blockade to Charleston. Although he had never established his citizenship in this country there was none more loyal to the history and traditions and welfare of the people among whom he lived. After the close of the war, in the summer of 1865, he and his brother Robert formed a co-partnership with the late W. C. Courtney under the firm name of W. C. Courtney & Co. to carry on a cotton and commission business. This partnership lasted for a good many years. About the year 1878 the Charleston Bagging Manufacturing Company was organized largely through the efforts of Mr. Murdoch; and under his

management this most flourishing industry in the city of Charleston remained until the time of his death, Mr. Murdoch being secretary and treasurer of the company, and managing its affairs with notable business ability. He was also a member of the American Manufacturing Company and at one time chairman of its board of managers.

Some years ago many of the bagging mills of the country came under one management, and among them the Charleston mill. Mr. Murdoch was one of the leading spirits of the new organization and one of the directors of the new company, the American Manufacturing Company; but he still remained in full charge of the local plant and success still continued to crown his efforts. He did not seek preferment, but it came to him unasked, and when friends to new undertakings and public progress were sought, his counsel, his sympathy and his aid and subscription were never wanting. At the time of his death he was interested in many of these objects which make up so largely a people's welfare, and his cultivated thought and discriminating reading brought him also into the wider and more liberal field of local art and literary effort. He was thus in touch with much that was useful and also elevating in the community, and his death will cause a distinct gap in varied enterprises and in refining influences.

He was interested and more or less officially connected with the musical life of Charleston, and its musical association, the Charleston Library, the Carolina Art Association, the Agricultural Society of South Carolina, and his parish church, St. Philip's; and was also the president of the Myakka Land Company and director of the J. R. Read Company, whose president was his life-long friend.

He was also a member of the Charleston Chamber of Commerce, in which he held office for many years; of the St. George Society; the St. Andrew's Society; the Commercial Club; the Carolina Yacht Club, and the Charleston Club. In all these organizations he took an active interest, and particularly in the work of the Chamber of Commerce, the Agricultural Society and the Carolina Art Association.

He shunned notoriety. He did not seek nor did he care for the applause of the multitude, but what he had to do he did with his whole heart and with no other thought in his mind than that of being of use to the community in which he lived. A most intelligent student of industrial and commercial questions, his wise counsel was much sought after, and it was largely upon his initiative that the work of up-building the agricultural and material interests of this part of the State was undertaken. A student of the best literature he was deeply interested in the educational affairs of his community; and, possessed of the finest artistic sense, he devoted much of his effort to the work of the Carolina Art Association, an institution which has done so much for the promotion of art work in this community.

By his will he has left ten thousand dollars to the Carolina Art Association and five thousand to the Charleston Library Society as a nucleus for a new building with a proviso that an additional five thousand will be given whenever the Society shall have raised ten thousand more.



MRS. SARAH BUTLER WISTER, a member of the South Carolina Historical Society, died at her home, Butler Place, Philadelphia, Pa., Tuesday morning, June 9, 1908. She was born in 1835, at Branchtown, Philadelphia, and was the daughter of Pierce Butler and Mrs. Frances Anne Kemble, the noted actress. She was married in 1859 to Dr. Owen Jones Wister. She translated *Selections from the Prose and Poetry of Alfred de Musset* (New York, 1872), and edited with Miss Agnes Irwin, *Worthy Women of our First Century* (Philadelphia, 1877).